

**Security Council**

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Identical letters dated 23 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that Turkish forces have embarked on a new series of acts of aggression against Iraqi territory, as follows:

1. On 5 October 2001, Turkish forces consisting of some 25 to 30 tanks accompanied by 45 to 60 military trucks carrying materiel and troops entered northern Iraq, taking the road through Zakho, Dakkar, Ajam, Batufah, Baykufah, Kani Masi, Bamarni and Ikmala. Some of these forces halted in the Kani Masi, Baykufah and Ikmala areas and the rest headed towards Jabal Karah.
2. Concentrations of Turkish forces were seen in the Shamandli Turkish border area, and it appears that these forces are preparing to enter Iraqi territory in the area of the Iraq-Turkey-Iran tripoint.
3. On 6 October 2001, three or four military trucks carrying Turkish troops entered northern Iraq.
4. On 9 October 2001, 25 to 30 Turkish military vehicles carrying troops and equipment entered Iraqi territory coming from the Wardah area towards the Sanat area. At the same time other Turkish forces entered Iraqi territory by way of the Ibrahim al-Khalil area from Silopi heading towards the Kani Masi, Bamarni and Amadiyah areas. Turkish military forces are now reinforcing their positions and fortifying them in order to maintain the thrust of the new incursion into Iraqi territory in the north.

This new Turkish incursion into Iraq's northern territories is part of a series of hostile operations and of the flagrant violations being committed by Turkish armed forces against the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq. These actions confirm the duplicitous policy being pursued by Turkey with regard to the anomalous situation in northern Iraq that it helped to create and perpetuate, an act of blatant interference in the internal affairs of Iraq. Turkey's claim that it is in pursuit of elements that pose a threat to its national security cannot legitimize its assaults on Iraq's sovereignty, and the correct way to safeguard the security of Turkey's southern borders is to end the anomalous situation obtaining in northern Iraq and respect Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq condemns and deplores in the strongest terms the ongoing violation of Iraq's territory and airspace in the north by



Turkish armed forces. This is in breach of the principles of good-neighbourliness and the norms embodied in international law and the Charter of the United Nations as well as of the appeals of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. Most recently, the participants in the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference of the Movement, held in Colombia in April 2000, stated in the final document of the conference (A/54/917-S/2000/580, para. 137):

"We strongly condemn the repeated actions of Turkish armed forces violating the territorial integrity of Iraq under the pretext of fighting guerrilla elements hiding inside Iraqi territory. These actions of Turkish armed forces constitute stark illegal violations of the international boundaries mutually recognized between the two countries and a threat to regional and international peace and security. We also reject the so-called 'hot-pursuit' measures adopted by Turkey to justify such actions that are abhorrent to international law and to the norms of practice among States."

We call upon Turkey to desist forthwith from these hostile practices and to withdraw its invading forces from Iraqi territory without delay, and we urge it to refrain from any repetition of these hostile acts. We affirm that the Government of Iraq reserves in full its legitimate right to defend itself, and we consider that Turkey bears full responsibility under international law for the consequences of its ongoing aggression, its violations of Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity and airspace and its exposure of Iraq's security and safety to grave risks.

We hope that the United Nations will fulfil its responsibilities, that it will urge the Turkish Government to comply with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law by ceasing forthwith its military aggression and its blatant interference in Iraq's internal affairs and by immediately withdrawing its armed forces from Iraq's territory. We further hope that it will hold Turkey legally responsible for this aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Mohammed A. Aldouri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative